



ASSEMBLY MEMBER

**Kevin Mullin**

DISTRICT 22



## AB 516: Temporary License Plate Program

### **PURPOSE**

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California is the only state in the union that allows cars to drive without a license plate on their vehicle for as long as 90 days. This poses a significant risk to public safety and is enabling unscrupulous motorists to evade tolls across the state.

### **SUMMARY**

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Each year, approximately 1.9 million new vehicles are purchased in California and driven out of the dealership without a license plate. Over 100,000 used vehicles are also sold by independent dealers without plates. A permanent license plate is usually mailed to the registered owner within about three weeks.

While plates are legally required to be installed “upon receipt” or within 90 days, whichever is sooner, many vehicle owners drive their vehicles without plates for months, some for over a year. And law enforcement can’t even tell when plates are required to be on the car so enforcement is extremely difficult. The status quo undermines public safety, allowing motorists to avoid detection in criminal activity, traffic and toll violations.

California’s electronic toll payment collection system — FasTrak® — relies upon a photo of a vehicle’s license plate for enforcement. In the San Francisco Bay Area, drivers without plates evaded almost \$9 million in tolls on the region’s eight toll bridges in FY 2013-14. Southern California toll roads and express lanes lost \$6 million, for a total statewide loss of \$15 million.

### **SOLUTION**

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Assembly Bill 516 requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to establish a temporary license plate program, similar to that in effect in over a dozen states, so that all vehicles sold in California receive a temporary license plate at the point of sale.

This “temp tag” program will improve public safety by enabling law enforcement to identify vehicles involved in traffic violations, hit-and-run accidents and other criminal activity.

The bill requires new and used auto dealers to install temp tags at the point of sale so vehicles are identifiable to law enforcement and toll operators from the point they purchase the vehicle and leave the lot.

This system can be implemented using “off the shelf” technology that simply requires dealers to have an internet connection and a printer.

### **SUPPORT (as of March 5, 2015)**

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- Metropolitan Transportation Commission
- Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District

### **STAFF CONTACT**

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